

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

UNCLAS STATE 305513

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM

SUBJECT: REPORT BY INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: JAKARTA 16664

1. THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (ILHR) ISSUED A STATEMENT DECEMBER 10, 1977 ON THE OCCASION OF THE 29TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. THE STATEMENT HIGHLIGHTED A NUMBER OF "ENCOURAGING" HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS DURING THE PAST YEAR. IT INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING SECTION ON INDONESIA, TO WHICH REFTEL REFERRED:

QUOTE: INDONESIA: THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED IN DECEMBER 1976 THAT IT WOULD RELEASE OVER A THREE-YEAR PERIOD FROM 21,000 TO 30,000 ALLEGED COMMUNISTS DETAINED WITHOUT TRIAL SINCE 1965 (OUT OF AN ESTIMATED 50 - 100,000). REPORTEDLY 2,650 PRISONERS ALREADY HAVE BEEN RELEASED. THOSE RELEASED, HOWEVER, WILL BE SETTLED ON OUTLYING ISLANDS UNLESS THEY HAVE FOUND EMPLOYMENT ON THE ISLAND
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OF JAVA. IN JULY, THE GOVERNMENT REVOKED A THREE-YEAR OLD BAN ON STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS. IT ALSO INDICATED ITS WILLINGNESS TO ALLOW THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS TO INVESTIGATE PRISON CONDITIONS, ALTHOUGH IT HAS REFUSED TO PERMIT THE ICRC ENTRY INTO E. TIMOR.

THE INDONESIAN RECORD OF TREATMENT OF PRISONERS IS ABYSMAL.

END OF QUOTE.

2. THE ILHR WAS FOUNDED IN 1942 BY ROGER BALDWIN. IT IS AN INDEPENDENT, INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION AFFILIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD. HEADQUARTERED IN NEW YORK CITY, THE ILHR HAS AFFILIATES IN ABOUT 35 COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD. A CIRCULAR AIRGRAM ON THE ILHR IS CURRENTLY IN PREPARATION FOR DISTRIBUTION TO THE FIELD.

3. THE FULL REPORT IS BEING POUCHED TO THE EMBASSY. VANCE

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